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Revision:

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS PRACTICAL SKILL VACUUM SPLINTS

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Signature:	
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Purpose:		Indications:	
To provide rigid stabilization of a suspected fracture site		Suspected fracture	
Advantages:	Disadvantages:	Complications:	Contraindications:
Easy to apply	Soft tissue swelling can cause the splint to become too tight and restrict peripheral circulation	None	None

Cover open wounds with sterile dressing, control bleeding, support site during process

Palpate distal pulses and check for capillary refill prior to application

Straighten severe angulation with gentle longitudinal traction above and below injury

If resistance is felt when attempting to straighten, stop attempt and splint in position found

Apply splint: wrap around the injured area, immobilizing joints above and below injury site

Open valve: pull on the right angle tube at connection point to the red valve stem

Attach suction device: with valve in open position, insert tapered tip of pump hose into the right angle valve tube

Evacuate air: turn on suction unit until splint forms a rigid cast around injured area

Close valve: push stem in to after desired firmness is achieved

Remove suction unit and recheck splint firmness

Maintain support of splint; confirm distal pulses and circulation; adjust as necessary

Secure splint; continue monitoring distal pulses and circulation

To remove splint: remove fastening material; open valve allowing air to enter splint; remove

NOTES:

 Vacuum splints may be used for any upper or lower extremity injury as long as the splint extends from the joint above through the joint below the fracture site.